

WE CLAIM:

1. A composition comprising a hydrogel matrix and a particulate magnetic material within said matrix.
- 5 2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein said matrix is derived from gelatinized starch granules.
3. A composition according to claim 2 in which said granules  
10 comprise a framework of amylopectin from which amylose chains have been expelled.
4. A composition according to claim 3 wherein said particulate material is super paramagnetic.
- 15 5. A composition according to claim 4, wherein said matrix is permeable and has accessible interior surfaces defining a cage for physical or chemical entrapment of antigens or antibodies.
- 20 6. In an immunoseparation process employing an immuno-reactant, the improvement wherein the immuno-reactant is entrapped in a composition as defined in claim 1.
7. In a diagnostic method in which a diagnostic agent is supported  
25 in a support material, the improvement wherein the support material is a composition as defined in claim 1.
8. A diagnostic kit comprising a diagnostic agent supported in a composition as defined in claim 1.

9. An immunoseparation device comprising an immuno-reactant entrapped in a composition as defined in claim 1.
10. A xerogel of the composition of claim 1.